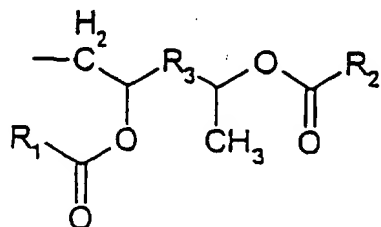
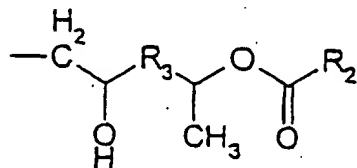


Amendments to the Claims

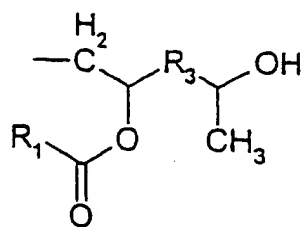
1. (previously presented) Quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula $R_4[R_5R_6N^+Z]_n X^-$ wherein Z is covalently bonded to the nitrogen atom and selected from the group of the following formulae (I-IV)



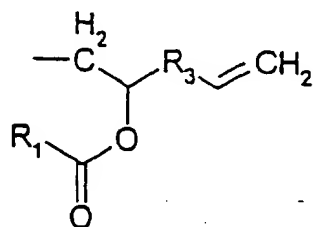
(I),



(II)

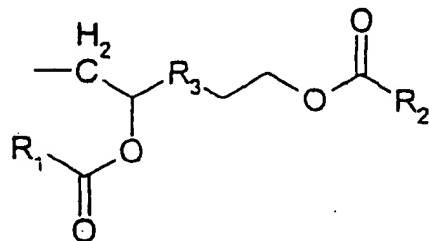


(III),

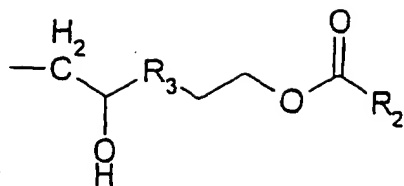


(IV),

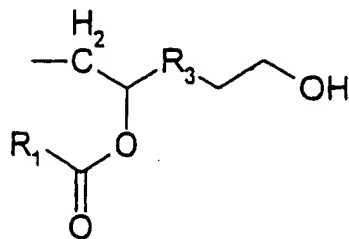
and the isomers thereof with the formulae:



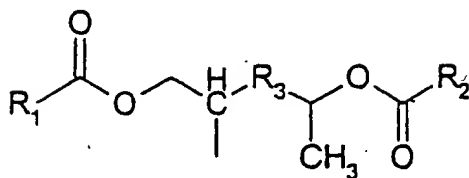
(Ia)



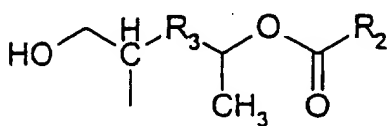
(IIa)



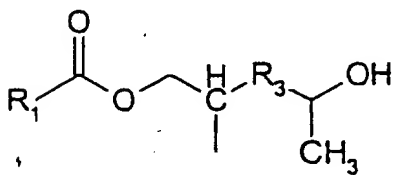
(IIIa)



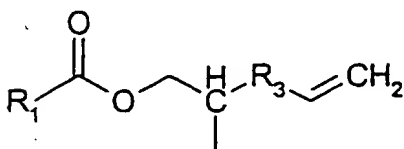
(Ib),



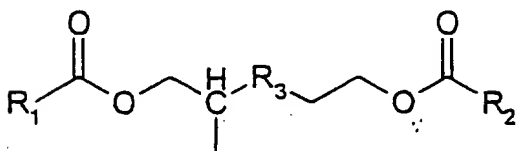
(IIb)



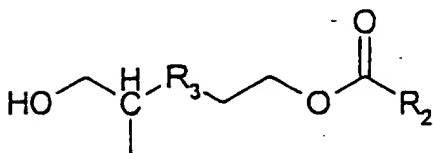
(IIIb)



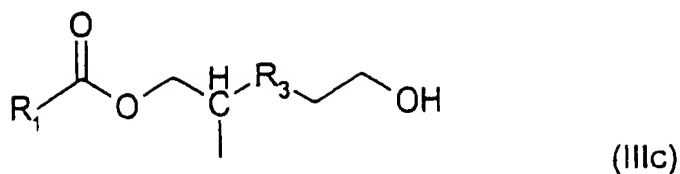
(IVb)



(Ic)



(IIc), and



wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{6-22} hydrocarbyl,

R_3 is nothing or C_{1-20} hydrocarbyl,

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylene, or independent Z,

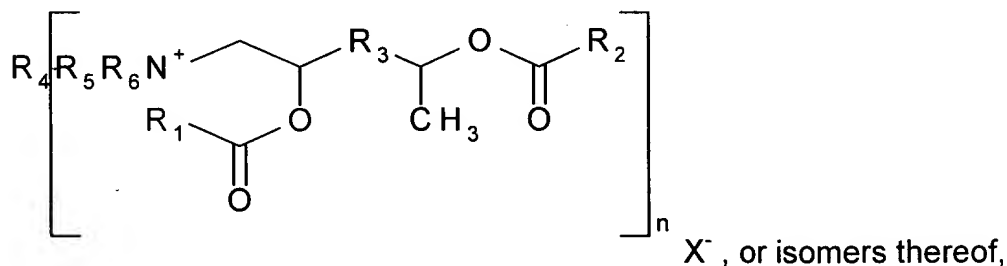
R_5 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, independent Z, or the residue of the quaternizing agent, such as C_{1-30} alkyl or alkenyl, preferably C_{1-7} alkyl or alkenyl,

R_6 is C_{1-6} alkyl or independent Z,

n is 1 or 2, and

X^- is an ion selected from Cl^- , Br^- , I^- , F^- , CH_3SO_4^- , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{SO}_4^-$, H_2PO_4^- , HPO_4^{2-} , propionate⁻, tartrate⁻, and benzoate⁻, wherein the total charge of the anions equals the total charge of the cations.

2. (withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 1 of the formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{6-22} hydrocarbyl,

R_3 is nothing or C_{1-20} hydrocarbyl,

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylene, or independent Z,

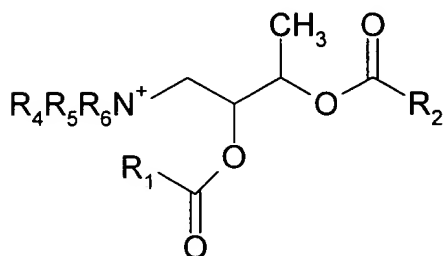
R_5 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, independent Z, or the residue of the quaternizing agent, such as C_{1-30} alkyl or alkenyl, preferably, C_{1-7} alkyl or alkenyl,

R_6 is C_{1-6} alkyl or independent Z,

n is 1 or 2, and

X^- is an ion selected from Cl^- , Br^- , I^- , F^- , $CH_3SO_4^-$, $C_2H_5SO_4^-$, $H_2PO_4^-$, HPO_4^{2-} , PO_4^{3-} , $H_2PO_3^-$, HPO_3^{2-} , $H_2PO_2^-$, HPO_2^{2-} , nitrate $^-$, formate $^-$, acetate $^-$, propionate $^-$, tartrate $^-$ and benzoate $^-$, wherein the total charge of the anions equals the total charge of the cations.

3. (withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 2 of the formula



X^- , or isomers thereof,

wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_4 - R_6 and X^- have the meaning given in claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{6-22} hydrocarbyl,

R_4 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylene, or independent Z,

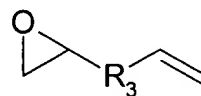
R_5 is H, C_{1-6} alkyl, independent Z, or the residue of the quaternizing agent, such as C_{1-30} alkyl or alkenyl, preferably, C_{1-7} alkyl or alkenyl,

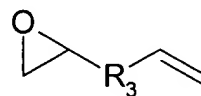
R_6 is C_{1-6} alkyl or independent Z,

and

X^- is an ion selected from Cl^- , Br^- , I^- , F^- , $CH_3SO_4^-$, $C_2H_5SO_4^-$, $H_2PO_4^-$, HPO_4^{2-} , PO_4^{3-} , $H_2PO_3^-$, HPO_3^{2-} , $H_2PO_2^-$, HPO_2^{2-} , nitrate⁻, formate⁻, acetate⁻, propionate⁻, tartrate⁻ and benzoate⁻, wherein the total charge of the anions equals the total charge of the cations..

4. (previously presented) Compounds according to claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{12-18} alkyl groups.
5. (previously presented) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein R_4 and R_6 are methyl.
6. (previously presented) Compounds according to claim 1 wherein X^- is chloride, methyl sulfate or ethyl sulfate.
7. (withdrawn) Intermediates for making one or more of the compounds of claim 1 wherein said intermediate has the formula $R_4[R_6NZ]_n$, wherein R_4 , R_6 , n , and Z have the meaning given in claim 1.
8. (previously presented) A fabric softening composition comprising one or more of the compounds according to claim 1.
9. (previously presented) A process of making the compounds of claim 1 which comprises:



- reacting an unsaturated epoxide of the formula  with an amine or protonated amine of the formula $R_4[R_5R_6N]_n$ or $R_4[R_5R_6N^+H]_n X^-$, wherein R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , n , and X^- have the meaning given in claim 1, and
- esterification of the intermediate with, on average, 1-2 moles of fatty acid derivatives, comprising the moieties $R_1-C(O)-$, $R_2-C(O)-$ or mixtures thereof, per mole of OH groups of the intermediate,
- an optional conventional quaternization either before or after said esterification step.

10. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein a trialkylamine is reacted with the unsaturated epoxide.

11. (canceled).

12. (withdrawn) A fabric softening composition which comprises at least one compound according to claim 2 .

13. (withdrawn) The composition of claim 12 which additionally comprises at least one performance booster selected from the group consisting of cationic and non-ionic surfactants.

14. (previously added) The composition of claim 8 which additionally comprises at least one performance booster selected from the group consisting of cationic and non-ionic surfactants.